

Jamila Hughley

Submitted May 4, 2020

By email (jamilahughley@gmail.com)

My name is Jamila Hughley. I received your information from Noelle Williams. I live and work in Newark, NJ. I am 43 years old. My experience during the COVID-19 pandemic from April 6, 2020 to April 30, 2020 has been complicated. Some days I feel hopeful and other days angry or frustrated, but overall grateful. I am grateful to have a home, grateful to be able to purchase groceries, grateful that I have a tablet and internet service for my daughter to use for her school work. Grateful that my employer Rutgers University has provided paid leave and I don't have to worry about my finances for this month. Grateful that my family are all doing well and social distancing to protect ourselves.

The blessing and the curse has been schooling for my daughter. The curse was how difficult it was for me to adjust and understand how children learn in this era. This new math is ridiculous to me, but the children seem to get it. The blessing is that I had the time to actually sit with my daughter and figure out how to help her with her studies (with the help of my wonderful partner).

The time away from the Huggle and bussle of what was my life, shifted my priorities and now I realize how much I was missing running around chasing money working multiple jobs. I have everything I need right here at home. I need to parent my daughter, not just love her and virtually attending Episcopal Church services with the woman I pray to spend the rest of my life with sustained my faith in God and renewed my faith in humanity.

I am hopeful that life for me does not return to what it was before the pandemic. For the first time in 43 years I feel present in my mind, body, spirit, and life. I am participating not just fumbling through it anymore. I am living life with intention now, fully in the present not anxiously worrying about the future or reacting from the past.